

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

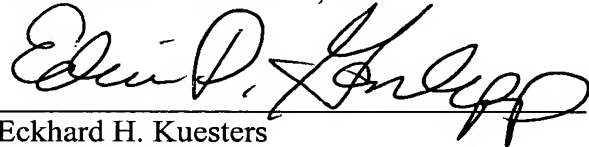
Claims 11-18 are presently active in this case, Claims 1-10 canceled and the specification amended by way of the present preliminary amendment.

The present application is a divisional application of, and claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §120 to, Serial No. 10/076,497 ("the parent application"). Thus, the present preliminary amendment amends the specification to incorporate the parent application by reference as suggested by The Manual Of Patent Examining Procedure. Moreover, Applicants wish to note that since the present application is a Divisional application under 35 U.S.C. §121, pursuant to that section, a patent issuing on the parent application shall not be used as a reference in the Patent and Trademark Office against the claims of this application.

Accordingly, an examination on the merits of Claims 11-18 is believed to be in order, and an early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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